

Let me also move very quickly, Mr. Speaker, to the fact that this is the fifth-year commemoration of the terrible killings at Texas Tech. This Congress has been charged with being fearful of dealing with gun legislation. Over the years, I have introduced the Child Gun Safety and Gun Access Prevention bill. I have, in fact, supported bills dealing with gun checks and to close gun loopholes at gun shows. I have supported bills to stop the proliferation of assault weapons. Not bills against the Second Amendment, but bills that would have stopped Mr. Zimmerman from recklessly walking around with a 9 millimeter, and he was only supposed to be the eyes and ears of his neighborhood.

Mr. Speaker, I join in a bipartisan manner, even to the extent of saying we must clean up the Secret Service—I support Mr. SULLIVAN—and even clean up the GSA, because Gilbane, which has received stimulus dollars from the GSA, has refused to be diverse. To the CEO of Gilbane, this Congressperson you need to call. You are an unfair company, and you're using Federal dollars from the GSA in an inappropriate way. No diverse workforce, and no small businesses.

#### STAFF SERGEANT JOSEPH D'AUGUSTINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARRETT. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today with heavy heart and sadness as we honor another fallen soldier and the life and legacy of Staff Sergeant Joseph D'Augustine, a young man from Waldwick, New Jersey. Staff Sergeant D'Augustine was killed on March 27, 2012, while conducting combat operations in Afghanistan.

It was just 1 day after graduating from Waldwick High School in 2001 that this young man enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. He was assigned to the 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force. He served two tours of duty in Iraq, and was just 2 weeks away from completing his second tour of duty in Afghanistan.

Staff Sergeant D'Augustine worked as an explosive ordnance disposal tech. What does that mean? That means that he went ahead of the other soldiers, marines, and airmen and was the one that cleared the way for them so they could go on and do their work. And so it was with this greatest act of sacrifice possible that Staff Sergeant D'Augustine gave his life while protecting his fellow men and women in uniform. He was just 29 years old.

We're never going to know the number of lives that he was able to save in his work. But the tremendous outpouring of love and support that we have seen for his family in the days since his death perhaps provided a glimpse into the number of people that he touched in his short life.

To those people who knew him best—his parents, Anthony and Patricia; his three sisters, Nicole, Jennifer, and Michele; and to his brother-in-law, Len—he will be remembered as a loving son and brother. To his many friends that he grew up with in high school, he will be remembered as a good guy and friend by the nickname “Daggo.” To his fellow marines, he will be remembered as a faithful brother in arms. And to all of us here who just may be hearing his name for the first time—to America—he will be remembered as a patriot who loved his country, the Marine Corps, and as a man who gave his life for all of us by protecting our freedoms and our liberties in this country. Let us remember this young man.

The Marine Corps motto is *Semper Fidelis*—always faithful. Staff Sergeant D'Augustine lived this motto. He was faithful to his country; he was faithful to the mission; he was faithful to the Corps, and he was faithful to his fellow Marines.

In times such as this, words fail to provide adequate comfort to his family and friends. But it is my hope that they know that the prayers and gratitude of a nation are with them.

We will always remember the price of freedom paid by Staff Sergeant D'Augustine, and may we determine to live our lives worthy of his sacrifice.

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#### POVERTY IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. As cofounder and cochair of the Congressional Out of Poverty Caucus, I rise today to continue talking about the tide of poverty that impacts every single district all across our country. I rise to call on all of my colleagues to come together to reignite the American Dream for all Americans by helping to create the millions of new jobs that they so desperately need.

Mr. Speaker, Social Security, Medicare and the critical benefits to feed hungry children in America did not cause our deficits. Our Nation's debt is a direct result of the Republicans' two unfunded wars, their failed economic policies, and the totally failed oversight of the financial services sector by the Bush administration regulators. And giving more tax cuts to the super-rich and their corporations will only make the deficits worse and will do nothing to grow our economy.

Mr. Speaker, let's not pass another \$46 billion loophole for the wealthy 1 percent. Mr. CANTOR's H.R. 9 is yet another tax holiday that would only increase the deficit and will fail to create new jobs. We should be passing laws that protect the health and safety of our Nation's most vulnerable, like our children and our seniors. And we must pass laws that provide some relief for the millions of Americans still struggling to find a good job. Mr. Speaker, any so-called “jobless recovery” where

you and your family are still out of work is really no recovery at all. That is why we simply cannot seek to balance the budget on the backs of the poor, our seniors, and struggling families across America.

The Republican budget, the Ryan budget, seeks to do just that. Actually, the Republican budget really is not serious about balancing the budget at all. Their budget guts, mind you, guts food stamps for our families in a time of such desperate need, it cripples Medicaid and ends Medicare as we know it today. Their budgets make these draconian cuts not to balance the budget but to create even more tax giveaways to millionaires and to massive corporations.

Mr. Speaker, we can do better than blame the poor and the powerless for the greed and the corruption of the rich and powerful. We can do better, and we must do better for all of the American people. We can protect the most vulnerable Americans, grow our economy, and reduce our deficits. Critical programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, better known as SNAP, not only feeds hungry children and families, but it supports the overall economy. Every dollar of SNAP benefits generates \$1.84 in our economic activity. SNAP benefits reduce long-term health care costs, improve the educational performance of children, and help to stabilize and improve the long-term economic outcomes of the families who receive these benefits. All of those positive outcomes help boost the entire economy from top to bottom.

If people are able to buy a little more in the grocery store, someone has to grow it, pack it, and ship it. All of those things lead directly to more jobs. So making cuts on struggling families during hard times is not only heartless, mean and immoral, but it also makes no sense because it doesn't reduce the deficit.

Mr. Speaker, there is a proposal to get our fiscal house in order even while we protect American families and invest in a stronger and more prosperous future. The Congressional Progressive Caucus budget, the Budget for All, would do just that. This budget makes smart and targeted cuts that preserve our national security, protect Social Security and Medicare, and extends and expands critical unemployment benefits for millions of Americans, including those who have hit 99 weeks where they are no longer eligible. These are the people who are still struggling to find a good job.

The Budget for All would ask that the wealthiest 1 percent and the world's biggest corporations pay their fair share so that we can afford to invest in our children's future and grow our economy.

America cannot afford another year of inaction and bills that pander to narrow special interests. Let's pass the President's American Jobs Act and pass a robust transportation bill that